Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03867 212235Z ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 201557Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8407

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3867

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, IV, EAID

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT IBRD FORESTRY

REF: STATE 86778

- 1. THE FORESTRY PROJECT REFERRED TO IN THE IBRD MONTHLY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY IS STILL BEING DESIGNED. THE LAST TEAM OF SPECIALISTS, WHICH VISITED IVORY COAST IN LATE FEB, FILED A PRELIMINARY SKETCH WITH THE REGIONAL OFFICE.
- 2. THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE CREATION OF 20,000 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL WOOD PLANTATIONS DIVIDED AMONG FOUR FOREST RESERVES IN THE SOUTHWEST. THE TYPE OF TREES TO BE PLANTED IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, THE IVORIANS WANTING TO ESTABLISH TOTALLY SOFT WOOD STANDS OF FOREIGN SPECIES, AND BANK TECHNICIANS PREFERRING A MIXTURE OF FOREIGN SOFT WOODS AND GMELINA, A LOCAL SEMI-SOFT SPECIES WITH AN ESTABLISHED EXPORT MARKET.
- 3. THE PROJECT WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY SODEFOR, THE PARASTATAL ENTITY IN CHARGE OF FORESTRY AND WILL COST A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$40 MILLION OF WHICH THE BANK WILL FINANCE \$15 MILLION. AT THIS POINT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OTHER DONORS, SUCH AS CCCE (CAISSE CENTRALE DE COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE FRENCH AID) OR FED (FONDS -EUROPEAN DE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT - EEC AID) WILL PARTICIPATE, BUT THE IBRD OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPONENT OF THE LOAN WOULD NOT BE LARGE AND HE EXPECTED THE IVORY COAST WOULD FINANCE MOST OF THE LOCAL COSTS.

4. AS IT NOW STANDS, THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE FOUR COMPONENTS: A TRAINING PROGRAM, A LAND USE STUDY, A

PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE RESEARCH FINDINGS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MONITERING UNIT TO MANAGE THE PROJECT AFTER COMPLETION.

5. IT APPEARS NOW THAT A FINAL APPRAISAL MISSION WILL VISIT ABIDJAN IN JUNE 1978 AND IF ALL GOES WELL, THE PROJECT BE BROUGHT TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL IN ABOUT FEB 1979 WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR IMPLEMENTATION SOMETIME IN MID TO LATE SUMMER OF 1979.

 $6.\ FOR\ FURTHER\ INFORMATION, INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD CONTACT: SODEFOR, B.P. 20860, ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE. STEARNS$

NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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